



POWER OF US WORKFORCE SURVEY

Power of You. Power for Youth.

Recognizing a Strong Workforce of Youth-Serving Professionals

Young people live, learn, work, and play across settings and systems: in afterschool programs, community centers, libraries, parks, museums, and many more places outside of the school day.

Policymakers and practice leaders maintain that adults across these settings and systems play an integral role in supporting youth to thrive (National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development, 2018).¹ Yet, we have little collective information about this essential workforce.

In 2022, youth-serving professionals and volunteers—including before-school and afterschool program staff, mentors, librarians, wilderness guides, athletic coaches, and beyond—have the opportunity to share their professional and volunteer experiences and pathways in the field.

Through the **Power of Us Workforce Survey**, youth-serving professionals and volunteers can contribute to a national effort to explore, define, and elevate their work with youth. The information from the survey can also lead to action, informing policy, practice, and further research to better support the workforce.

Calling all youth-serving professionals and volunteers to share their story!

- Arts and creative youth development
- Childcare programs (school-age childcare)
- Children and youth library services
- Civic engagement programs (e.g., youth community service, volunteer programs)
- Community-based out-of-school time program or club
- Faith-based programs
- Housing and homelessness programs
- Juvenile justice initiatives
- Mentoring
- Museum education
- Nature, environmental, or outdoor experiential programs
- Parks and recreation programs
- Place-based initiatives (e.g., Promise Neighborhood)
- Postsecondary prep programs (e.g., Posse)
- School-based before- and/or afterschool programs (e.g., 21st Century Community Learning Center, community school)
- School-based extracurricular program or club
- Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and experiences
- Social justice programs
- Sports programs
- Summer camps
- Summer learning programming
- Summer youth employment programs
- Youth-serving workforce development or youth employment
- Youth activism programs

¹National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development. (2018). *From a nation at risk to a nation at hope: Recommendations from the National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development*. https://nationathope.org/wp-content/uploads/2018_aspen_final-report_full_webversion.pdf

According to your colleagues in the youth fields:

You bring valued skills, expertise, and heart to a career critical to helping our communities and our economy.



You are passionate, committed, creative, resourceful, resilient, and powerful as a professional.

You know the strengths of young people because you come from their communities and have walked in their shoes.



Capturing the Stories of Those Who Choose to Make a Difference

In contributing your story, you make your profession stronger.

All adults, in all settings, have the power to support youth success (Osher et al., 2020).² We're seeking to hear from professionals and volunteers from a range of youth-serving initiatives, organizations, and agencies to take the **Power of Us 2022 Workforce Survey**.

Share your stories. Tell your youth-serving colleagues to take the survey and share their stories. This is the Power of Us—an essential, youth fields workforce coming together to tell our story.

If we know more, we can do more to support the youth fields workforce to thrive as you continue to support youth to thrive.

²Osher, D., Cantor, P., Berg, J., Steyer, L., & Rose, T. (2020). Drivers of human development: How relationships and context shape learning and development. *Applied Developmental Science, 24*(1), 6–36.

Save the Date

Join us for the launch of the **Power of Us Workforce Survey!**

February 22, 2022 at 11 a.m. PST/2 p.m. EST
Registration link: <https://bit.ly/PowerofUsLaunch>

We're stronger the more we know.

It's the Power of Us

The Power of Us Workforce Survey is administered by the American Institutes for Research® (AIR®), an independent, nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization that conducts behavioral and social science research and delivers technical assistance both domestically and internationally.

The survey is part of a larger Youth Fields Study, which was commissioned and funded by The Wallace Foundation as part of its mission to support and share effective ideas and practices. Collaborative Communications is leading the communications campaign for the study, and AIR is leading the full study with a constellation of partners.

